

REMARKS

Upon entry of the present amendment, claims 1-8 and 12-14 will be pending. Claim 1 will have been amended, claims 9-11 will have been cancelled, and claims 12-14 will have been newly added.

In view of the herein contained amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of each of the outstanding rejections set forth in the above-mentioned Official Action, together with an indication of the allowability of all of the claims pending in the present application.

As an initial matter, Applicants wish to confirm that their U.S. representative spoke with the Examiner via telephone on June 22, 2005, who confirmed that the Office Action of June 6, 2005 is a Final Rejection, even though the Office Action Summary page indicated the action was non-final.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 2 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Stallard et al. (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0179277). The Examiner also rejected claim 11 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Stallard.

Applicants note with appreciation that the Examiner indicated that claims 3-9 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Upon entry of the present amendment, claim 1 will have been amended to include substantially all of the features of dependent claim 9, dependent claim 3 will have been rewritten in independent form as newly added claim 12, dependent claim 5

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will have been rewritten in independent form as newly added claim 13, and dependent claim 7 will have been rewritten in independent form as newly added claim 14,

For at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-8 and 12-14 are in condition for allowance, and entry of the present amendment and issuance of a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

Entry and consideration of the present amendment, reconsideration of the outstanding Office Action, and allowance of the present application and all of the claims therein are respectfully requested and now believed to be appropriate. Applicants have made a sincere effort to place the present invention in condition for allowance and believe that they have now done so.

Applicants note that the status of the application is after final, and recognize that Applicants do not have a right to amend after a final rejection. Nevertheless, Applicants respectfully submit that entry of the present amendment is appropriate in the present circumstances because the amendment places the application in condition for allowance and does not raise any new issues requiring further search or consideration.

In this regard, Applicants note that new claims 12-14 correspond to objected claims 3, 5 and 7, respectively, and that three claims are canceled by the present amendment, resulting in no increase in the number of pending claims.

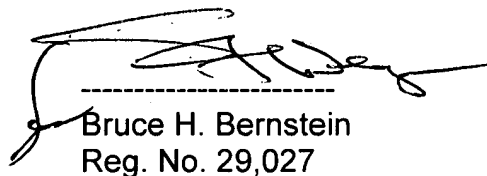
Any amendments to the claims which have been made in this amendment, and which have not been specifically noted to overcome a rejection based upon the prior

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art, should be considered to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability, and no estoppel should be deemed to attach thereto.

Should the Examiner have any further questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
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